The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
January 14, 2000

Congratulations to Bill Burger on his retirement

Bill Burger (Botany) decided that the best way to end the old millennium was to officially retire on December 31, 1999 following more than 34 years of outstanding service to The Field Museum.

Bill taught in Ethiopia for four years before joining the Botany Department in August of 1965 as an Assistant Curator of Flowering Plants. Bill's principal research since starting at The Field Museum has been in documenting the diversity of the Costa Rican flora and providing rigorous taxonomic revisions of key families of plants that occur in Costa Rica.

This work has resulted in numerous publications including 11 volumes of *Flora Costaricensis* published in *Fieldiana*. For these treatments Bill chose some of the largest and most difficult plant families. Working alone, or with the appropriate collaborator, Bill created keys and illuminated descriptions which form the resource of choice for anyone working in Central America and northern South America.

Bill is extremely well respected in Costa Rica, and mentioning that one works with him opens many doors. In addition to his Costa Rica work, Bill has published a number of influential, sometime controversial, papers on the evolution of flowering plants and the evolution of flower structures. In all of his papers, Bill combines his keen intellect with an incredible knowledge of plants to produce the highest quality research.

Bill's contributions to this institution are not limited to his outstanding research program. Over the course of his time here, Bill has tirelessly served on numerous committees including the now defunct Space Committee, SAC, and Kaffeeklatsch. He also served as Botany Department Chair for eight years.

He also has been very active in education, exhibit, tours, and development programs. Currently, he is a point person on the **Chocolate!** exhibit team, Scientific Editor of *Fieldiana*, and coordinator of the Seminar Series.

Luckily for us all, Bill's retirement is only a change in status as he has promised to be an active Curator Emeritus.

Submitted by Greg Mueller

FIELD NOTES

Week of January 17

Staff/Volunteer Events

STAFF HOLIDAY
- Monday

Cleanup Week 3.0 Kickoff
- Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.
  Stanley Field Hall

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Public Events/Campus Events

Total Lunar Eclipse
- Thursday night programs at Adler
  8 to 11:30 p.m.

Education Overnight
- Friday evening through Saturday

The **Natural News** is published every Friday and edited by Rodger Patience in the Development department. Send stories, artwork, ideas to patience@fmnh.org or call ext. 7286. The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at noon.

MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

Many,many thanks

Thanks to **Lou French** (FP&O) and **Trigg Waller** and **Sophia Shaw** (Exhibits) for their help on the City's "Let It Glow" holiday program. The trees and museum facades of the Campus, awash in white and blue light, were highlights of the millennium celebration.

Thanks to **Diane White** and **Jackie Benitez** of Public Services and **Jeff Hawkins, Tina Gulley, Brian Simmons** and **Michele Ames** of the Dept. of Protection Services for their work on the cab transportation survey. Their efforts resulted in an additional trolley stop at the Chicago Hilton cab stand to enable museum visitors to obtain cabs. Museum visitors can now more easily obtain a cab by boarding the CTA/Campus Trolley which will take them to the cab stand at Michigan and Balbo. Please encourage the use of the CTA/Campus trolley especially during the end of the day when cabs on the Campus are scarce.

Cab stand and trolley service updates

During a trial run to the Hilton cab stand (December 26 - January 2), 124 museum visitors were brought from the Hilton to the Campus and 287 museum visitors were brought to the Hilton cab stand from the Field Museum south entrance. Trolley service has now reverted to the Winter schedule and will operate only during the weekends. Total ridership for the holiday service (December 4 to January 2) was 72,225. Of this number, 3,487 riders used the CTA/Campus trolleys. Total ridership for 1999 trolley service (March 19 to January 2) was 1,038,743. Of this number, 31,000 riders used the CTA/Campus trolleys from May 28 to January 2.

Trolleys will be in service from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, January 17, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Phone reminder

When trying to reach our office at the Adler, please dial the '665' prefix. Please call (312) 665-7422 if you have any Museum Campus related questions.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Good news comes in threes for the Anthropology department

The past few months have been good to **Dr. John Edward Terrell** in Anthropology. After several years of development, he now has three book contracts for systematically related volumes.

With his colleague Dr. John Hart at the New York State Museum, he is working on the manuscript for *Darwin and Archaeology: A Handbook of Key Concepts*, which is due at Greenwood Press this coming July. Bergin & Garvey Publishers are copy-editing a second book *Archaeology, Language, and History: Essays on Culture and Ethnicity*, which is scheduled to be out this September or October, and which is one of the first volumes in the new series "Scientific Archaeology for the Third Millennium." Finally, Terrell and his Dartmouth colleague **Dr. Robert L. Welsch**, Adjunct Curator in the Department of Anthropology, just received a contract from the Oxford (England) publisher Berghahn for *The Politics of Friendship in New Guinea*.

While Terrell has written for all of these weighty books, they also reflect his collaborations with 37 research colleagues around the world. Collectively these three new volumes are all about the same integrated themes. How does human evolution in all its facets—of biology, language, and culture—really happen? How are we to explain the wonderful diversity of our species? It is obvious that Terrell knows what he thinks anthropology is all about! The mission of his profession, he says, is *Studying What Makes Us Human* (which he hints may be the title of his next book).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 12, 2000
Media contact: Katie McGinley, 312/692-3330
pager: 312/830-7941

SHEDD AQUARIUM ANNOUNCES TEST RESULTS OF BELUGA WHALE

Following the unexpected and sad loss on Dec. 26, 1999 of Immiayuk (Im-ee-A-yook), a female beluga whale, Shedd Aquarium has now confirmed the cause of death. Vice President of Research and Veterinary Services Dr. Jeff Boehm announced that thorough analyses indicate the whale died from an acute septicemic (blood-borne) bacterial infection. The disease, erysipelas (AIR-eh-SIP-el-us), is caused by a bacterium that occurs in fish, mammals and birds and affects whales and dolphins both in the ocean and in zoos and aquariums.

"This was especially difficult for our staff because of its sudden onset," Boehm said. "The course of this disease is so swift and the symptoms typically are not visible until the animal is near death, making it difficult to detect in time to treat effectively." In this case, Immiayuk's death occurred less than a day after the first subtle changes in behavior were noted, leaving the staff deeply saddened.

The bacteria that causes the disease is found in the ocean and on land. Erysipelas has been found in stranded whales and dolphins, and blood tests indicate wild populations are exposed to the bacteria.

"The bacteria that causes erysipelas is naturally found in healthy fish, so it is probable that the infection came from fish Immiayuk ate," Boehm continued. The bacterium survives freezing, and, since it does not affect the fish themselves, no visible evidence can be seen of its presence. This disease is not contagious from one whale to another, and all the animals continue to receive regular medical exams.

Shedd Aquarium uses only restaurant-quality fish with high nutritional value, and every fish is inspected several times for damage or physical defects before the whales and dolphins eat it. Food for the Aquarium's animals is prepared in an immaculate area that is cleaned and disinfected several times daily.

Director of Training and Husbandry Ken Ramirez adds, "While this is a very sad time for us, we are encouraged that all the whales are interacting and behaving normally and that [the whale's calf] Kayavak [KAH-ya-vok] is progressing well." Kayavak, born on August 3, is eating whole fish, gaining weight and interacting well with Shedd's animal care staff.

Boehm concluded, "Through collaborations with veterinarians and other researchers, we are committed to learning more about the response of dolphins and whales to this disease-causing bacterium. Through study, we hope to understand why whales and dolphins are so susceptible to this deadly disease, and develop tools to help us prevent or control its occurrences. Given that this disease occurs in the wild as well as in zoos and aquariums, our hope is that what we learn about erysipelas and the immune systems of these animals can be applied to wild populations as well as animals in our facilities."

"We are saddened by what has happened, but it points out that we must continue to learn about these wonderful animals," said Ted Beattie, president and CEO of Shedd Aquarium. "A great deal of research is necessary to understand aquatic animals and how we can conserve their populations. Here at Shedd we've seen that people care more for these animals and the aquatic world after they have a personal experience with animals. This inspiration helps our schoolchildren, teachers and families understand how they can make a difference and take a more active role in conserving these beautiful animals in their natural habitats."

ADLER PLANETARIUM
& ASTRONOMY MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DECEMBER 29, 1999

CONTACT: Amy Jo Austin
Public Relations Assistant
312-322-0548

Dawn Kappel
Director of External Communications
312-322-0524

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
hosts public events for
Total Lunar Eclipse, January 20, 2000

"Just 20 days into this millennial year, a spectacular total eclipse of the Moon will occur over the Americas and Western Europe. With Earth's air finally cleansed of lingering volcanic aerosols, this January brings the first 'normal' total lunar eclipse in nearly a decade," Sky & Telescope Magazine.

Chicagoland skywatchers will have a unique opportunity to watch the night's eye close during special after-hours observing events at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum on January 20, 2000 from 8:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. The lunar eclipse will begin at 9:01 p.m., reach mid eclipse at 10:44 p.m. and end totality at 11:22 p.m.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Full Moon passes "behind" the Earth in line with the Sun. "During this month's total lunar eclipse, the brilliant Full Moon will fade away before our very eyes as it slips into the Earth's shadow for several hours. Sometimes the shadow of an eclipse is so dark the Moon virtually disappears. Other times the glow of sunrise and sunset around the edge of the Earth turns the eclipse's shadow a copper color which illuminates the Moon," says Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum astronomer, Phyllis Pitluga.

Planetarium visitors will be able to view the winter eclipse in warmth through the glass windows of the museum's Sky Pavilion, go outdoors to view the eclipse with telescopes, take a guided tour of the Doane Observatory or watch a Theater presentation on the eclipse between 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

-more-

Adler Planetarium
& Astronomy Museum
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
312-922-STAR

Along with viewing opportunities, museum educators will perform an array of educational demonstrations showing visitors how to create Moon phase dials, design Moon masks and make Moon flip books. There will also be science analyses to participate in at the Adler's "Eclipse Viewing Center." At the Viewing Center, visitors will be able to determine the color of the Moon at mid-eclipse using an eclipse color scale, record the faintest stars visible in the sky as the Full Moon becomes darker and time when craters are darkened by the Earth's shadow.

For anyone unable to make the trip downtown, the Adler has set up additional internet activities at: www.adlerplanetarium.org. Online, visitors can chat with astronomers from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m., determine the color of the Moon at mid-eclipse using an eclipse color scale and visit the Astronomy Online Skywatchers Guide to learn more information about the lunar eclipse.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum opened in 1930 as the first Planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Newly expanded and updated facilities, including the stunning new Sky Pavilion and the renovated landmark 1930s building, have prepared the museum for a leadership role in the next millennium. Seven new exhibition galleries, along with state-of-the-art computer technology in the world's first StarRider™ Theater, fuel the imagination of visitors. By showcasing the latest discoveries and its renowned collection of historical astronomy artifacts, the Adler pursues its mission to be the leading public center for interpreting the exploration of the Universe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR

TTY: (312) 322-0995.

www.adlerplanetarium.org.

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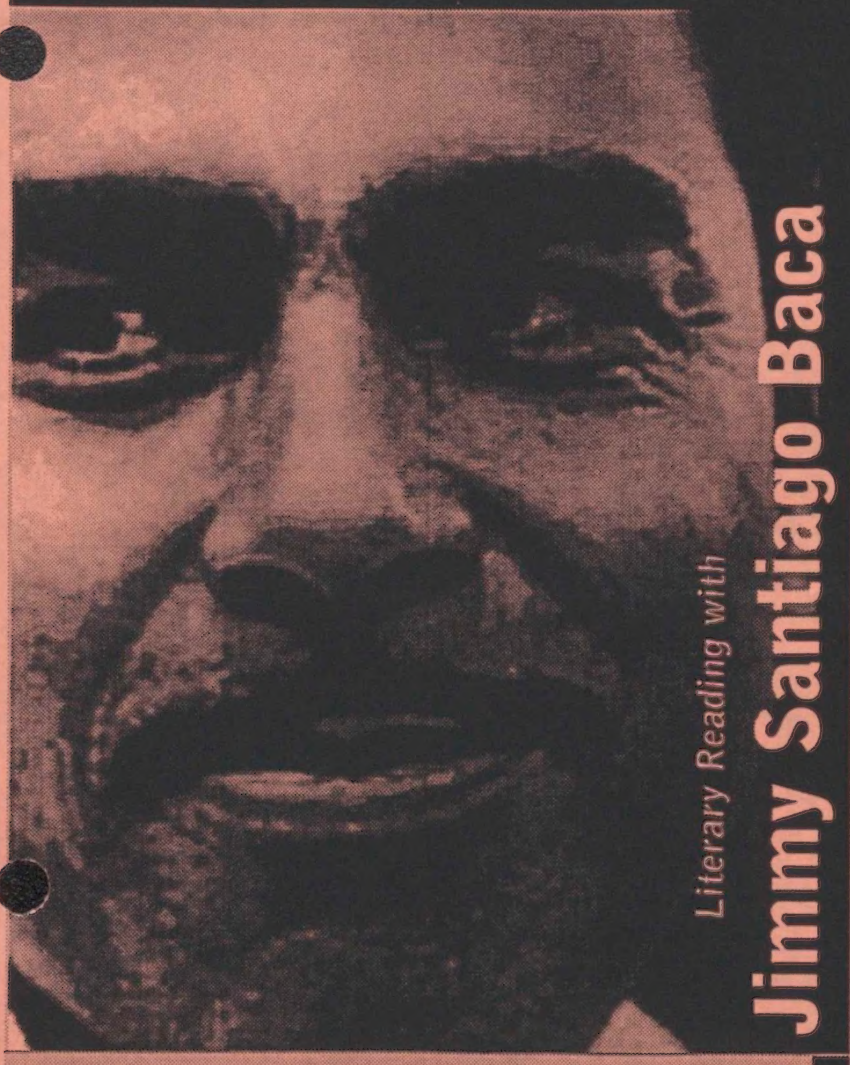
The Field Museum Presents



Literary Reading with

Jimmy Santiago Baca

A World of Words: Field Museum Literary Series

Contemporary Writers Explore the Natural and Social World

Tuesday
January 25
6:30 p.m.

$15 ($10 members;
$12 students and educators)
Please call 312.665.7400
for tickets or more information.

Listen to distinguished poet Jimmy Santiago Baca read selections from his new and forthcoming books of poetry. Baca, a native of New Mexico, has overcome poverty and prison to become one of America's most gifted writers. He is the author of several books of poetry, one of which, *Martin and Mediations on the South Valley*, won the 1988 American Book Award. He has also received the Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature, the Pushcart Prize and the Southwest Book Award. Among his new books are *Set This Book on Fire* and the the soon to be released *Healing Earthquakes*. Additionally, Baca has three movie scripts in the works, including one that Julia Roberts recently purchased about the Life of Pancho Gonzales, one of the most colorful players that the tennis world has ever seen.

Additional Literary Readings in the Series

Jhumpa Lahiri	March 21, 2000
Kathleen Norris	May 1, 2000

Praise for Jimmy Baca—*Working in the Dark:*

". . .permeated with Baca's intensely lyrical sense of the empowerment of literacy and language."

—Library Journal

Martin & Meditations on the South Valley:

"A first rate literary tour de force."

—Andrei Codrescu, NPR

Staff/volunteers may call ext. 7400 for 2 free tickets

The Field Museum salutes the people of Chicago for their long-standing, generous support of the Museum through the Chicago Park District.

This program is partially supported with funds from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

January 3, 2000

Dear John,

Elsie and I visited my folks over Christmas and took the opportunity to visit the Field Museum. She wanted to see the Native American collections and urged me to go because the "Sounds from the Vaults" exhibit might appeal to my interest in music. I was skeptical because of an earlier disappointing experience viewing the musical instrument collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. On that occasion, both I and the musician friend with whom I went were frustrated that we couldn't hear what the instruments sounded like.

By contrast, I found "Sounds from the Vaults" an absolute delight. It is perhaps the best museum exhibit I have ever enjoyed. It amply fulfills its educational mission and also provides a joyous musical experience. The touch-screens are very well organized and quite user-friendly. The touch-pads, with which one can "play" the instruments, offer the opportunity to experience musical instruments in a musical way.

Of course, it was also boatloads of fun. For a while, I found myself playing impromptu duets with a twelve-year-old boy whom I didn't know. At another point, the entire room of people was playing in the same "groove", grinning like children. In fact, I got a bit over-stimulated, and it took about five minutes after I left the exhibit to calm down.

I wanted to write to congratulate you on "Sounds from the Vaults" and encourage you to have the exhibit travel if possible. I also wanted to compliment you on the other innovations and improvements evident throughout the museum. Success should be recognized and encouraged. I hope that this letter in a small way does both.

Warm regards,

Jim

Jim Klumpner

PROTECTION SERVICES

Fire safety training sessions announced

The Department of Protection Services, in conjunction with the Chicago Fire Department, will be conducting four training sessions on fire safety. These training sessions will be open to all museum staff and volunteers. The training you will receive could save a life, including your own. Please mark your calendars for one of the following sessions in February:

Monday 7	9:30 – 11:00 am	Classroom A
Thursday 10	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Lecture Hall I
Monday 14	9:30 – 11:00 am	Lecture Hall I
Thursday 17	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Lecture Hall I

Submitted by **Walter Cobb**

HUMAN RESOURCES

2000 Health and Benefits Fair A Success!

Thank you to all those who attended the 2000 Health and Benefits Fair on Thursday, January 6. We hope you got all of your benefit questions answered and enjoyed a stress-reducing massage! Following is a list of the raffle prize winners. If you are a winner and have not yet picked up your prize, please stop by the Human Resources Department to do so.

Also a special thanks to those staff that helped make the fair run smoothly: **Bob Cazy** in Audio Visual, **Patrick Heneghan** and **Floyd Bluntson** in Engineering, **Carlita Wilds** in Special Events and the Housekeeping, Security and Visitor Services departments.

Winners	Prizes	Donating Companies
Michael Trombley	Jumper cables	BlueCross BlueShield HMO
Marcia Pyle	Polo shirt	BlueCross BlueShield HMO
Andy Medina	Swivel clock	BlueCross BlueShield HMO
Peter Stevenson	Emergency kit	Met Life
Auset Howard	Big Snoopy	Met Life
Moses Raspberry	Pulse toothbrush	Delta Dental
Cheryl Giznik & Karen Little	$25 gift certificate @ Marshall Field's	Chicago First Credit Union
Kevin Swagel	Polar fleece blanket	TIAA-CREF
Larry Cortez	Gift Basket	Cellular One
Janice Taylor	$30 gift certificate @ Carson Pirie Scott	Magellan
Ken Grabowki & Alex Bacon	US Savings Bonds	Bank One
BIG WINNERS!!!!!		
Betty Strack	$125 gift certificate @ Printer's Row restaurant	VALIC
Carolyn Moon	Four Bulls Tickets	BlueCross Blue Shield PPO

Submitted by **Tracey Pilch**

CORNER BAKERY

Help us help you

We need your help finding our service trays. We have recently lost about 125. If there are any floating around your office, break room, or store room, please return them to us. The trays are costly to replace, and we would greatly appreciate your help in tracking them down.

Also, the long-awaited liquor license for the Corner Bakery has arrived. We will be offering beer and wine. All of our managers have gone through the required training and licensing.

We appreciate your patronage and hope that all Field Museum employees will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Human Resources department. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Happy New Year to all—and best wishes for continued success!

Submitted by the Corner Bakery team

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

Kudos to Pawnee Earth Lodge volunteer

Volunteer Al Goldblatt received thank you letters from the 3rd graders at Chicago Junior School in Elgin, Illinois. The writer below clearly enjoyed his trip:

Dear Mr Al,

Thank you for being our guide. My favoite part was into the earthlodge. I was comfortable in the earthlodge. They used the buffalo tail for a flyswatter. They used the horn for spoons. I like the trip.

From,

Jonathan